

BOARD OF FINANCE

March 19, 2008

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Finance held at 5:30 P.M., on Wednesday, March 19, 2008.

Members Present: First Selectman McCarty, Mr. Doheny, Mr. Volain, Mr. Hallahan, Mr. Piccirillo, Ms. Brown, Mr. Monico

Also Present: Assistant Director of Finance Edward J. Swinkoski

The following materials were either mailed to the members prior to this meeting or distributed at this time.

1. Agenda – March , 2008
2. Minutes of Regular Meeting held on February 20, 2008
3. February 29, 2008 - Report of Budget/Overexpenditures/Special Funds
 - Report of Revenue
 - Board of Education Accounting
4. Draft – Resolutions (3) FY 2008-2009 Budget and Public Hearing
5. IOM dated February 25, 2008, Estimates of State Formula Aid to Municipalities
6. Board of Education Budget dated February 14, 2008
7. IOM dated March 14, 2008, Summary of Collective Bargaining Contracts

MINUTES

After a brief discussion of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 20, 2008, Mr. Doheny moved their acceptance, seconded by Mr. Piccirillo.

VOTE:	Doheny - Yes	Volain - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Brown - Yes	Piccirillo - Yes	Monico - Yes
	McCarty - Yes		

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

REPORT OF BUDGET/OVEREXPENDITURES/SPECIAL FUNDS, REVENUE AND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACCOUNTING FEBRUARY 29, 2008

Chairman Volain made a motion to dispense with the review of the reports because of the length of tonight's meeting.

Seconded by, Mr. Piccirillo.

VOTE:	Doheny - Yes	Volain - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Brown - Yes	Piccirillo - Yes	Monico - Yes
	McCarty - Yes		

BOARD OF EDUCATION – SPECIAL EDUCATION EXPENDITURE

Superintendent of Schools Sara-Jane Querfeld requested \$250,000 be appropriated to the Board of Education for special education expenditures. She explained that there are 53 students that are out-placed and the Board only budgeted for 44 students.

School Board Chairman John Lambert said that this is a rare occurrence and urged the Board of Finance to act on this as soon as possible. The School Board does not have the authority to overspend the budget nor does it have the power to borrow money.

Ms. Querfeld said that if the Board of Finance doesn't act on this request tonight, she would be forced to make immediate cuts that would affect students and teachers.

Further discussion followed.

Mr. Volain then moved the following:

RESOLVED, that it is recommended that the Board of Selectmen call a Special Town Meeting to take action on the acceptance of this recommendation to appropriate a sum not to exceed \$250,000 for Special Education expenditures of the Board of Education; and, be it further resolved, that the Town authorize that the cost of this appropriation be defrayed by the expenditure of a portion of the unappropriated fund balance. Said appropriation shall only be used for Special Education expenditures.

Seconded by Mr. Doheny.

VOTE:	Doheny - Yes	Volain - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Brown - Yes	Piccirillo - Yes	Monico - Yes
	McCarty - Yes		

At 6:50 PM the Board recessed and reconvened at 7:05 PM.

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Mr. Piccirillo began the discussion stating that the Registrars of Voters salary should be increased to \$20,000, which is a 25% increase.

Mr. Doheny asked if a salary survey was done to determine what other towns pay their registrars. He said that maybe the Board of Selectmen should revisit this issue.

Mr. Piccirillo then moved the following:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Finance recommend that the Board of Selectmen reconsider the salary and benefits of the Registrars of Voters to reflect that their salary be increased from \$16,000 to \$20,000, including \$485 for each election, primary, referendum and audit, without benefits.

Seconded by Mr. Hallahan.

VOTE:	Doheny - No	Volain - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Brown - Yes	Piccirillo - Yes	Monico - No
	McCarty - Abstain		

OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION

Mr. Steven Fitzgerald of the Open Space Committee spoke to the Board on the acquisition of 11 acres of land at 3600 Ridge Road. The land is currently being used as a co-op farm. A conservation easement has been drafted but it has not been finalized. The cost of this easement is \$330,000. The Land Trust has committed \$65,000 toward the purchase price. The balance is \$265,000 of which 50% may be reimbursable by the State. The owners of the property need to finalize the purchase by August 2008.

Mr. Hallahan asked the Board members if they would consider funding \$132,500 (the Town's share) for the purchase of this conservation easement contingent on the State's reimbursement. He felt it was a good opportunity to obtain the open space property.

Mr. Hallahan then moved the following:

RESOLVED, that it is recommended that the Board of Selectmen call a Special Town Meeting for the purchase of a conservation easement at 3600 Ridge Road for the sum of \$132,500.

Mr. Volain felt it was a worthy goal but he could not justify it at this time. Mr. Monico agreed.

First Selectman McCarty felt there were too many conditions and would not support this action.

Mr. Hallahan withdrew his motion.

FINALIZE FY 2008-2009 BUDGET

Chairman Volain began the discussion on the FY 08-09 Budget by stating that this budget has no increase in personnel. He suggested that the Board go thru the budget by department and discuss each one and come to a consensus.

Ms. McCarty noted that Department Head raises are not included in the budget. An RFP was sent out last week for a Managerial Pay Study. The proposals are due April 16th.

The Board then went through the entire budget and made cuts as necessary.

A lengthy discussion followed on the fund balance and revenue. Mr. Doheny did not agree with the proposed expenditure of capital items from the unappropriated fund balance. He said that it will bring the fund balance under 7 percent which he felt was too low.

Mr. Hallahan said that no one likes to dip into our savings but we have neglected capital requirements for too long.

Chairman Volain then moved the following:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance recommends to the Public Hearing a FY 2008-2009 Town Government Budget of \$38,859,146.

VOTE:	Doheny - Yes	Volain - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Brown - Yes	Piccirillo - Yes	Monico - Yes
	McCarty - Yes		

Chairman Volain then moved the following:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance recommends to the Public Hearing a FY 2008-2009 Board of Education Budget of \$42,252,766.

VOTE:	Doheny - Yes	Volain - Yes	Hallahan - Abstain
	Brown - Yes	Piccirillo - Yes	Monico - Yes
	McCarty - Yes		

Chairman Volain then moved the following:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance recommends to the Public Hearing the expenditure of \$1,688,182 for twenty-three (23) Capital Items listed in the FY 08-09 Budget; the cost of which will be defrayed by a portion of the unappropriated fund balance.

VOTE:	Doheny - Yes	Volain - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Brown - Yes	Piccirillo - Yes	Monico - Yes
	McCarty - Yes		

Chairman Volain then moved the following:

RESOLVED: That a FY 2008-2009 Budget recommendation of \$82,800,094 of which \$1,688,182 will be appropriated from the unappropriated fund balance and will be presented to the Public Hearing to be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, with the Board of Education Budget to be presented first, beginning at 7:00 P.M., followed by the Town Government Budget, to begin no later than 8:00 P.M., with general discussion to follow as may be warranted.

VOTE:	Doheny - Yes	Volain - Yes	Hallahan - Abstain
	Brown - Yes	Piccirillo - Yes	Monico - Yes
	McCarty - Yes		

PUBLIC COMMENT

Discussion followed for approximately 25 minutes with several residents asking questions and making recommendations/suggestions.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Volain moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 PM, seconded by Mr. Hallahan.

VOTE:	Doheny - Yes	Volain - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Brown - Yes	Piccirillo - Yes	Monico - Yes
	McCarty - Yes		